

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03043 011045Z

12-R
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W
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P 010800Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1373

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3043

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAI, NG
SUBJ: NIGER FOOD REQUIREMENT

FOR AF/BLAKE

REF: STATE 179656

1. MANY THANKS FOR GOOD NEWS IN REFTEL AND STATE 179620
ON WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY ACTED.

2. FULLY UNDERSTAND DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING DECISION ON
NIGER'S NEEDS IN ABSENCE RDO ANALYSIS OF FOOD SITUATION
WHICH UNHAPPILY APPEARS TO BE CHANGING FOR THE
WORSE AND SUGGEST THAT DROUGHT CONDITIONS AT LEAST AS
FAR AS NIGER IS CONCERNED ARE STILL WITH US FOR SOME
TIME TO COME.

3. RDO REPORT HASHEEN DELAYED BECAUSE PROBLEM IS
COMPLICATED ONE AND WE WANT BE SURE OF OUR FACTS BEFORE
RECOMMENDING COURSES OF ACTION. REPORT SHOULD BE GOING
FORWARD AUGUST 1.

4. IN MAKING OUR PITCH FOR DIVERSION OF GRAIN
TO NIGER WE ACUTELY AWARE THAT SOME MAY FEEL THAT GON
INTEREST IN GETTING GRAIN WILL INFLUENCE EXTENT OF ITS
COOPERATION IN FACILITATING TRANSIT OF GRAIN TO GAO.
HOWEVER, BELIEVE RECORD WILL SHOW THAT GON HAS RESPONDED
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POSITIVELY TO EVERY REQUEST WE HAVE MADE TO EXPEDITE

SUCH SHIPMENTS (NIAMEY 3013 AS ONE EXAMPLE).

5. IN COPING WITH THIS PROBLEM YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ONE OF PROBLEMS WE FACE IN ENLISTING GON COOPERATION CCOR SHIPMENTS TO MALI IS NAGGING DOUBT ABOUT MALI'S NEEDS. WE HESITATE PUT THIS IN GENERAL TRAFFIC TO WASHINGTON FOR FEAR OF BEING ACCUSED OF SABOTAGING MALI'S NEEDS AND PASSING JUDGMENT ON ISSUE ABOUT WHICH WE LACK FACTS. HOWEVER, KIND OF CREDIBILITY PROBLEM WE FACE ILLUSTRATED BY FULLY RELIABLE REPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT VISITING SRO REP WHO ARRIVED HERE FROM MALI TOLD ALI SAIBOU YESTERDAY THAT 6TH REGION ALREADY HAD ALL GRAIN IT NEEDS FOR NEXT FOUR MONTHS AND THERE ARE ALREADY STOCKS IN COUNTRY TO MEET ANY ADDITIONAL NEEDS. IT IS HARD TO COUNTER THIS ALLEGEDLY RELIABLE SOURCE AND DRUM UP GON ENTHUSIASM TO WEIGH IN MORE ACTIVELY ON BEHALF OF GAO SHIPMENTS AT EXPENSE OF NIGER'S OWN NEEDS FROM DAHOMEY.

5. LEAVE TO YOU TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF FOREGOING TO DAVE SHEAR AND COMPANY IN ANY DISCREET WAY YOU THINK BEST. NANY THANKS.HECK

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